

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 14-8618**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 14-8618

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Stacy Fish

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Andrew Shedlock

07-07-2014, assigned to Inspector Jerri Hale, On

Date Assigned or Initiated: 11-30-2015, reassigned to Senior Inspector Fish

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Reception and Medical Center

Complainant: Correctional Officer Amanda Waters

Outside Agency Case #: ED-75-0003

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: 15D Natural Inmate Death

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On July 5, 2014, Correctional Officer A. Waters submitted an Incident Report indicating while assigned as Hospital Security Officer at Reception and Medical Center (207); she was advised Inmate Hamilton, Vincent DC#757082, had been pronounced deceased of natural causes [REDACTED]. This information was reported in MINS on July 5, 2014, and assigned to Inspector J. Hale for investigation on July 7, 2014. Due to the death being deemed an attended natural death, the complainant identified in the MINS report will not be interviewed. This case was referred to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on August 22, 2014, for investigation and assigned to Special Agent Andrew Shedlock, case number ED-75-0003.

On November 30, 2015, this investigation was reassigned to Senior Inspector Stacy Fish from Inspector Jerri Hale due to Inspector Hale accepting another job with DC and no longer works for the Office of the Inspector General.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On July 05, 2014, Officer Waters reported that Inmate Hamilton was pronounced deceased of natural causes [REDACTED].

On August 22, 2015, this case was referred to FDLE for review and investigation.

A review of the Gainesville Medical Examiner's Office final autopsy results revealed the following:

1. [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]
The probable cause of death was listed as "[REDACTED]"
[REDACTED] and the manner of death was listed as "Delayed homicide."

On December 16, 2015, FDLE Special Agent (SA) Shedlock forwarded me a copy of the case summary report for OIG Case #14-8618. SA Shedlock indicated that FDLE received the case summary report as part of the 82 open death investigations that FDLE received from DC on August 22, 2014 for review. In the report from FDLE regarding the 82 death cases, Inmate Hamilton's death was ruled a natural death. SA Shedlock indicated that FDLE did not receive a copy of the autopsy report and ruled Inmate Hamilton's death as natural based on the information authored in the case summary report by Former Inspector Jerri Hale. SA Shedlock indicated that FDLE Case #ED-75-0003 has been closed.

SA Shedlock submitted an addendum report to FDLE Case # ED-75-0003 which indicated the following:

The case summary report received by FDLE on September 5, 2014 was authored by Inspector Jerri Hale. The case summary stated, "an autopsy report from the Medical Examiner in Gainesville, Florida, confirms the cause of death as a natural form of death." The conclusion section of this case summary stated, "This investigative report is EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED, based on the Post Mortem Examination Report which indicates that Inmate Hamilton died from [REDACTED]" A copy of the autopsy report referenced in this file was not contained within.

On September 17, 2015, Inspector Hale sent SA Shedlock a copy of Hamilton's autopsy report from the 8th District Medical Examiner. A review of this report indicated it had been finalized on August 5, 2014 and stated the manner of death was "homicide" and the cause of death was [REDACTED] The attached Report of Investigation from the Medical Examiner's Investigator stated this gunshot wound occurred in 1987, during the crime for which Hamilton was incarcerated for at the time of death. (*Information in the DC imaging database show Inmate Hamilton was involved in a shooting in January 1987 [REDACTED] Inmate Hamilton was involved in an armed burglary at a drug house which resulted in a shoot out between him and the occupant of the house. Inmate Hamilton was struck in the neck which [REDACTED] the female occupant was shot and killed by Inmate Hamilton.*) This report also detailed allegations [REDACTED] for approximately five years prior, made by the decedent's sister Shana. Shana's last name was not contained in the report.

Due to the contradictory information contained in the autopsy report provided to SA Shedlock and the autopsy findings referenced in OIG Case #14-8618, this report was generated to amend Investigative Report 73, which identified Hamilton's manner of death as "natural" and identified it as "homicide" as determined by the medical examiner.

The case number on the case summary report is listed as #14-8618/1. The case summary report that SA Shedlock forwarded this Inspector does not exist in IGIS. Upon reviewing the investigation, report #14-8618/1 is an investigative report authored by Inspector Hale documenting this investigation being



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turned over to FDLE for review. It is unknown by this inspector how FDLE received a case summary report for this case that does not exist in this investigation.

Inspector Hale was contacted and indicated that if the case summary report was not in IGIS then it was not done and she would not have done a case summary report until the final autopsy results were received. In reports #14-8618/3 and #14-8618/4, Inspector Hale documented that the final autopsy report was received and the probable cause of death was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The manner of death was listed as a "Delayed Homicide."

On March 18, 2016, contact was made with Detective Mitch Messer (ID#101264) with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Detective Messer indicated that he was familiar with Inmate Hamilton's case from 1987 and provided Case #1987-5902. Detective Messer also indicated he was aware of the Medical Examiner's Office findings of "Delayed Homicide" and he has already relayed this information to the State Attorney's Office for review.

It should be noted that Inmate Hamilton [REDACTED] since February 11, 2014. Inmate Hamilton was transferred to RMC on July 04, 2014 [REDACTED] Santa Rosa Correctional Institution.

VII. CHARGES
N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector Stacy Fish that this investigation be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared

No administrative violations were noted.